

Weldon given Socrates award

by Mary Ellen Clark

The Socrates award for the spring philosophy class has been given to Connie Weldon, a junior, was the recipient of the prize for her performance in the course philosophy of God instructed by Dr. Kent Anderson.

Each semester, since Dr. Norman Freund became chairman of the philosophy department in fall of 1981, the Socrates award is given to the student who achieves academic excellence in his or her respective class. The student chosen for the honor receives a congratulatory letter and a T-shirt with Socrates' picture and one of his famous sayings, "Philosophy, that dear delight" printed on it.

According to Anderson, Weldon had

"the highest overall average on quizzes, exams and a paper." He said that 140 students were enrolled in philosophy courses last spring, and out of those, she demonstrated the greatest ability to "pose those penetrating questions that philosophers like to ask. She has a fine analytical mind."

Philosophy, a requirement at Clarke, touches all students at some time in their academic career. Freund said, "Catholic institutions require students to take both philosophy and religious studies, because they were once thought to the queens of discipline."

Weldon, who is working toward a philosophy minor was pleased and honored to receive the award. "It totally

made my day," she said, "I was very happy. I loved Philosophy of Human Nature, and once I got into Philosophy of God, I really liked it too. Some points are more interesting than others, but it really helps you to think. I like the challenge."

In the particular course that Weldon won the award, she said it encouraged her to think about her own beliefs in God. "I was never too sure of my faith, but this course helped me to build my own faith," she said.

Weldon said the challenge to think was the greatest benefit from the course. "One class is worth the money, because it makes you look at things in another way. Philosophy makes me think, and even if a bigger salary does not come out of taking the course, it shows you that you can think

and write," she said.

Both of the classes that Weldon has taken were taught by Anderson and she has nothing but praise for her professor. She commented, "I can always talk with him," she said. "He cares whether or not you learn. The teacher can make a big difference in a class, and he never let me quit."

Since receiving the award, Weldon has joined a prestigious list of 17 other Clarke students. Most of the recipients, unlike Weldon, have not been working toward degrees in philosophy. However, they have displayed the highest level of overall achievement in the courses.

Freund said that he and Anderson look over their class lists and final grades in order to get a preliminary list of award candidates. Class participation and ability to lead small group discussions is also a criteria. "Even though there is just one winner, those considered deserve special recognition," said Freund. "There is a lot of tough competition at this school," Anderson said.

The Socrates award is a source of pride for Weldon. She said, "I am more proud of this than anything else, even making the dean's list. I have worked harder on this than anything else, but I love it."



Connie Weldon

OVER 60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CLARKE COLLEGE

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Parents Weekend activities begin

by Rachel Bell

School has been in session for over three weeks and families are returning to join their loved ones. Parents weekend, which is sponsored by Student Activities, will be this weekend, Sept. 14-16.

James Petty, vice president of Student Affairs said, "Parents weekend is a little earlier this year. During the past few years, it was held in November. We had low turn outs during that time because of distances, conflicting interests and bad weather." Petty, who is also the chairman of the Cultural Events Committee, is involved with obtaining Friday night's entertainment. "September is Hispanic awareness month at Clarke, so the Cultural Events Committee contracted Orquesta De Jazz Y Salsa Alto Maiz to play," Petty said.

Parents weekend should be exciting for families of all tastes because of the variety of events planned. On Friday night at 8 p.m. the jazz orchestra will play outside of the Atrium plaza if weather permits. Inside, the Atrium will take on a festive flare with gel lights, pinatas, non-alcoholic margaritas, tortilla chips and salsa. Spanish students will perform Latin dances and instruct those willing to learn some new Latin moves.

Saturday is filled with activities. In the morning there will be "mini courses" offered by teachers lecturing on the influence of Hispanics in their fields of study. One lecture will be given by senior Lawrence Behnke. "It is Parents weekend. Why can't a student give one of presentations?" said Behnke. His lecture, "Velasquez: A Premier Spanish painter" will be held in the Jansen Music Hall at 10 a.m. Judith Biggs, instructor of history, will speak on the Middle East Crisis at 11 a.m. in room 109 CBH.

Lunch will be served in the Clarke dining room at 11:30 a.m. which will be followed by a greeting to parents and students from President Catherine Dunn, BVM. Acme Vocals will provide lunchtime entertainment. Patti Hunter, director of Student Activities is very pleased with the entertainment. "When I saw a video of Acme Vocals' work I was blown away," Hunter said. The group recently performed at the

1990 All-Star baseball game. This Chicago-based musical comedy act has also been seen on ABC's "Good Morning, America." Hunter feels their acapella singing and up-beat style should suit everyone.

There are two sports events planned for Saturday afternoon as well. At 1:30 p.m. there will be a women's volleyball game in the Physical Activities Center. On the Wahlert soccer field, the men's soccer team will play against Kirkwood Community College at 3 p.m.

A trolley ride will be provided for interested families at 4 p.m. The trolley will pick up the participants in front of the Atrium plaza. The 45-minute ride consists of a guided tour of Dubuque, where parents can learn about the city's history.

Dinner will be served in the dining room from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. allowing everyone a chance to eat and relax.

In previous years, Mary Josita Hall residents have sponsored a fashion show which featured residents of the dorm as models. This year Jamie Fox and Rachel

Bell helped organize a fashion show which features students from all the dorms. Fox said, "We think everyone should have a chance to be seen. Everyone's parents are going to be there; we shouldn't limit it to one dorm."

The fashion show will be held in the Atrium at 7 p.m. The clothes worn are provided by stores in the Dubuque area. County Seat and Casual Corner stores from Kennedy Mall will be participating along with First Glance, Kunnerts Sports, Marsha Jo's, The Edge and Grahams store for men. Model Donna Scott is looking forward to the show, "I've thought about modeling before when I was in high school. But when I looked into it, it was too costly. This show will be fun and cost nothing." Sophomore, Fred Davis said, "My biggest concern is not falling down the stairs while modeling."

Following the fashion show, a variety show will be held in the music hall at 7:30 p.m. "There will be all kinds of acts," said shows host Liz Klinger. Although there are not many acts officially slated, Klinger expects the "stage hams" will come forward

on Saturday night. Faculty, staff and students are all expected to participate. "We may even have parents join the fun," said Hunter, "A student and her mother may perform together if they get a chance to practice before showtime."

A special liturgy is planned for all denominations Sunday at 11 a.m.

"It has taken a lot more planning to organize this Parents Weekend than in previous years," said Hunter. "I think this time of the year is the best time to hold such an event. New students have been here a month and they are settled in by now. It's also a great opportunity for parents to observe their kids, see how they are, meet their new friends and bring money - mainly check up on them."

Student Activities hopes the weekend will be a fun and exciting time for Clarke students and their families. It should be a good break for students after a month of studying.



Acme Vocals

**The
Courier
staff
wishes
Clarke
families
well**

Feature

Steffek adds new chemistry

by Liz Klinger

Given the chance to travel anywhere he wanted, Dan Steffek would not choose the typical place. Steffek would like to visit Triton: Neptune's largest moon, which he describes as "one bizarre moon." He said Triton would be a unique place to visit because of its nitrogen volcanoes, diverse array of geological features, and how it revolves in a retrograde manner. Steffek is the new assistant professor of chemistry at Clarke.

Besides wanting to visit Triton, Steffek is eager to share his knowledge with Clarke students. He teaches General Organic Biochemistry for both the general and accelerated programs, and Advanced Organic Chemistry.

Steffek arrived at Clarke after teaching at

Upper Iowa University in Fayette. It is a small liberal arts college that did not have a large science department. "I was the chemist," joked Steffek. This past spring, he saw an ad in a national publication for a chemistry instructor at Clarke. After Steffek was interviewed by various faculty and gave a presentation on aldol condensation, he was hired.

Steffek received a bachelor of science from Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Mich. The graduate work that he did at the University of Wisconsin at Madison allowed him to bypass a master's and receive a doctorate in chemistry in 1982.

Steffek said "When I was doing research at the University of Illinois, science and teaching seemed like something I liked to

do. I guess I lucked out. In my 37 years I've been consumed with science. I can not imagine doing anything professionally that did not involve science."

Steffek said the qualities of a good science instructor should include: a strong background in the area, a deep and serious concern for the educational development of the students, written and oral communication skills and respect for students as individuals. He also said the instructor should want to do his or her best, want to teach and enjoy what they're doing. Steffek said, "I try to do this, varying upon the course, impress understanding concepts. I want students to apply rather than memorize information."

When it comes to the struggles of learning about science Steffek remains en-

thusiastic. "I'd do it all over again," he says, referring to school loans, time, money, input, writing a thesis on which he spent 20 hours a day for six weeks. He said, "Science is fun." He advises anyone interested in science to "go for it." Holding chemistry student Scott Mugan to form the Astronomical Society, a new organization at Clarke. Mugan, one of Steffek's students, says Steffek is "very enthusiastic and energetic."

Steffek is from Antigo, Wisc., located 90 miles from Green Bay, Wisc. Steffek said Antigo is a "great place to go in the fall when the leaves turn." His wife, Robin, is also a scientist. She will attend the University of Iowa at Iowa City to complete a doctorate in chemistry. Robin is studying hemoglobins and their medical and biological application. He has a 10-year-old daughter, Sarah. Steffek enjoys bicycling, working jigsaw puzzles, reading and taking walks with Robin. "I read a lot," he says, "about 30 books a year, which is why my wife and I are broke."

Although Steffek is interested in science he does not read science fiction. He is more interested in real life science. He feels that in science today two significant topics are geology—what caused the extinction of dinosaurs, and the Hubble Satellite—focusing on how large the universe is.

Steffek said, if possible, he would invent a "world without war, where people are treated as human beings. You know, an ideal place to be."

Steffek likes the fact that he does not take himself too seriously. But he also wishes that his intellectual capabilities were greater. About Clarke Steffek says, "I'm having a pretty good time here. I feel that I can be myself both personally and professionally." S. Mary Lou Caffery, professor of chemistry, said, "We were really pleased to find someone with his breadth of experience and interest to join the department. We look forward to working with him."

Spiegel to form support groups

by Julie Klein

The Personal Growth Center is forming two support groups dealing with people who choose to abstain from alcohol and for non-traditional students going through major transitions in their lives, said S. Ginnie Spiegel, director of the center.

The drugs and alcohol issue has been a concern of students, so Spiegel and one of her students are starting a group to confront the issue. "People sometimes think they are the only ones who don't drink. They feel 'How come I don't have friends?' or 'How can I make friends?'" Spiegel said. "The purpose of this group is to offer support to people who choose not to drink or use drugs."

The group offers three main benefits. "First, the students have the opportunity to build new friendships by getting to know each other. Secondly, it is an opportunity for them to improve relationship skills in terms of getting along better with other people. And lastly, being in this group may help them feel better about themselves," Spiegel said.

Spiegel hopes that students who choose not to drink will learn to accept those who

do. "One goal is to show them not to judge those students who do drink." The group will meet every other week for an hour.

Last year, Spiegel formed a support group for women in transition; women who were going through major changes in their lives. She decided to continue the group based on positive feedback of last year's participants.

"Feelings of isolation come from experiencing transitions, like dealing with health problems, divorce or other losses. It seemed like the women who did this last year found support in one another, so I'd like to offer that service again," Spiegel said.

One student who participated last year said she decided to join the group mainly to find ways of diffusing the tensions inherent in attending college and being a divorced mother. "Being in school after 20 years, it's nice to have a support group that understands life problems. Some of us in the group were wives and mothers, as well as students," she said. The group allowed her an outlet to express herself. "The group was a safe place to be able to talk about needs and feelings without being

judged by other students."

There were two main rules the group was expected to follow. "Number one was the concept of confidentiality. Everyone had to agree that what was said in the discussions was not to be repeated outside the discussion. Secondly, each person had to commit to attend every meeting. People moved mountains to attend the meetings; it was something to look forward to," she said.

The woman said that Spiegel not only kept things moving, but she became part of the group. "We learned from each other. We learned to put our feelings as a top priority. We also discovered that the better we know ourselves, the better we can be in relationships with each other."

For those considering joining the group, the woman said, "It's an invaluable experience that will touch their lives, giving feelings of acceptance not usually found in normal situations."

Anyone interested in participating in either group can contact Spiegel at ext. 571.

Clarke receives Teagle grant over five years for programs

by Patricia Eichhorst

Clarke College has been named as the recipient of a \$250,000 Teagle grant, which will be awarded over a five-year period.

The first installment is being used to purchase equipment and software for a skills development center to be located in the Academic Support Center. The software will include programs to help students hone math skills such as algebra, pre-calculus and calculus. There has also been new software purchased for the writing lab.

Mary Alice Muellerleile, vice president for academic affairs, said the new equipment would be operational soon, but could not give a specific date.

\$40,000 of the grant money will be used to hire minority faculty members who have completed course work for their doctorates or are working on their dissertations. Each faculty member will teach two courses for which Clarke will reimburse them. The grant money will be used to pay for the release time they spend on their dissertations.

Recruiting Hispanic students will be the focus for \$65,000 of the grant money. The program was launched with a workshop given by Diana Lam, Chelsea, Mass. She is the superintendent of Chelsea schools, where 52 percent of the student body is Hispanic.

The final \$100,000 will be used to help fund doctorate work for current faculty members.

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Announcements, Briefs, & Coming Events

The Clarke Campus Ministry is sponsoring a hayride and bonfire on Friday, Sept. 21. Vans will leave Mary Jo at 6 p.m. Sign up in the chapel office.

abc

Dust off those tap shoes. It is not too late to sign up for the Parent's Weekend variety show to be performed on Saturday, Sept. 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Jansen Music Hall. Contact Patti Hunter, Student Affairs Office, Box 1561.

abc

A Student Leadership Workshop for Clarke, Loras, University of Dubuque and University of Wisconsin - Platteville on the University of Wisconsin - Platteville campus is scheduled of Saturday, Sept. 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

abc

The Clarke Astronomical Society will have its first meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Clarke Planetarium.

abc

A C.T. Vivien Urban Potential Workshop will be held in Dubuque on Sept. 17-18 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Funding is available for two students to attend. Application forms may be picked up in the Campus Ministry Office.

abc

The Dubuque Fine Arts Players are performing the 13th Annual One-Act Playwriting Contest winners Sept. 14-15 at Five Flags Theater. Curtain is 8 p.m.

abc

KH&H Productions presents Neil Simon's *The Prisoner of Second Avenue* Sept. 21-23

and Sept. 28-30 in the Bijou Room of the Five Flags Civic Center.

abc

The Freshmen Welcome is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 10 p.m. in the student Union.

abc

The Clarke food service has a variety of job openings this year. Those interested should contact Larry James or call Ext. 348.

abc

The Dubuque Chapter of the NAACP will hold its first fall meeting on Saturday, Sept. 15 at 1 p.m. at St. Mark's Community Center, 1201 Locust St.

abc

The women's volleyball team will play Blackhawk & Carl Sandburg College on September 18 in Moline, Ill.

abc

Textile artwork of Peru will be on exhibit in the Quigley Gallery 1550 from September 16 through October 14. The opening reception will be Sunday, Sept. 16 from 1-3 p.m. in Quigley Gallery 1550.

abc

Clarke has received a grant from the Apple Corporation of eight Macintosh computers and a scanner valued at over \$28,000 with matching funds from four Dubuque area corporate and individual contributors.

abc

The American Poetry Association is sponsoring a poetry contest. Students should send one original poem, no longer than 20 lines to: American Poetry Association, Dept. CO-84, 250-A Potrero St., P.O. Box 1803, Santa Cruz, Ca. 95061. Entries must be postmarked by September 30.

The final \$100,000 will be used to help fund doctorate work for current faculty members.

